United Nations E/CN.9/2015/NGO/8

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
1 January 2015

Original: English

Commission on Population and Development
Forty-eighth session
13-17 April 2015
General debate on national experience in population matters: realizing the future we want — integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda

Statement submitted by Hydroaid, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

14-67536 (E) 300115

Please recycle

Statement

Building on networks: ideas for addressing demographic and environmental stress by supporting inclusive sustainable development

Demographic growth and lack of planning guidelines are two of the major forces leading developing countries to critical conditions in terms of environmental degradation and life quality, unsustainable scenarios for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and instability. At Hydroaid we believe in an integrated approach to development revolving around water as a key resource and on training as a tool for promoting sustainable resources management.

The increasingly worrisome impacts of global climate and environmental change, which are adding considerable stress to countries whose resources are already scarce, brought us in the years to develop a strong sensitivity for contexts characterized by high pressures on their local resources. With this idea, we welcomed the theme of Earth Day 2014 "Green Cities" that focused the global attention to urbanization trends in relation to sustainable growth and population issues.

At the same time we have long acknowledged the role of private investments, whose contribution is rapidly growing and has become, in some contexts, the main driver of the economy. We believe that the importance of private subjects, contributing to the GDP growth in a directly proportional way, cannot be ignored by international cooperation and that a successful vision for the post-2015 development agenda must incorporate strategies for synergy between public and private entities.

Increased concerns for rapidly and uncontrollably growing urban agglomerations in developing contexts accompanied us in our 13 years of activity. That's also the case of Arba Minch (Ethiopia), target city of our recent Project WATSAM, a European-funded initiative to support the local water and sanitation sector. The population of Arba Minch has more than doubled in the past 20 years and today counts almost 100,000 inhabitants. The same trend has been detected all across the country, the second most populous and the one with the highest demographic growth in Africa. Arba Minch, like several similar areas, is likely to face strong environmental stress and a degradation of living conditions if a good governance and a preventive planning approach are not set in motion since now.

Since its beginning in 2012, WATSAM strived to establish a hotbed for cooperation encouraging relations among local stakeholders: institutions and utilities have all been engaged to support a gradual process of inclusion of public and private entities sharing the same rules and goals. This approach had proved its validity in other cooperation projects carried out by Hydroaid, such as in the case of Brazil, with whom we established a cooperation program 10 years ago and in which a strong public control system is associated with the growing role of the private sector.

With this in mind we appreciate the opportunity to take part in the international conference organized by Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) and the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) titled "Promoting stability and development in Africa: fostering cooperation between public and private sectors"

(Torino, Italy, 1-2 December 2014). This event saw a positive dialogue of entities whose nature varied from public institutions to private companies and NGOs, but who all agreed on the need for promoting inclusive and bottom-up paths to development in order to ensure a larger involvement of stakeholders and combining the necessary public investments with the potential of the private sector. A powerful combination that, if appropriately envisioned, could match GDP growth to more equitable wealth distribution.

This is an important reversal of vision over sustainable development: it is based on a realistic consideration of all forces in play and promotes the idea that it's not the competition, but the synergy of the subjects to ensure high levels of efficiency, quality and sustainability of the services delivered — especially water and energy supply, and waste management. This is how Hydroaid conceives its role in "fostering cooperation between the public and private sectors" while knowing that when we talk about basic services we need to consider not only water but the security nexus of Climate Change, Water, Food, and Energy, that implies an integrated vision of development, as advocated by the 2014 World Water Development Report.

According to our experience, in addition to good environmental policies, it is necessary to work also on a system for dissemination of skills and know-hows, to be adequately interpreted and systematized within national and local frameworks. Sound transfer of knowledge and the ability of spreading it into own systems is an essential requirement for sustaining growth trends in the long term and it can be fostered even further, towards the Sustainable Development Goals of the post-2015 agenda, by a model of services management where private actors have an active role and find in cooperative networks a pool for constant improvement.

United Nations E/CN.9/2015/NGO/9

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
1 January 2015
English
Original: French

Commission on Population and Development
Fifty-ninth session
13-17 April 2015
General debate on national experience in population matters: realizing the future we want — integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda

Statement submitted by Amis des étrangers au Togo, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

14-67537 (E) 010115 040215

Please recycle

Statement

Sustainable development and human development

At the beginning God created heaven and earth. Then he created the elements on planet earth, including man. Before creating the planet, God had a plan, and everything that he created has a logically consistent sense aimed at humanity's greater well-being.

Goal: Sustainable development designed to enable humanity to eradicate poverty by 2030.

Currently, man is the creator of his own misfortune. Having obtained fire through the spirit of creativity, man built factories and industries that provide him with material goods. But how are human creations used?

Thanks to fire, man prepares his meals using such forest products as wood and charcoal. Since the population increases every year (it is expected to rise from 7 billion in 2013 to 9 billion in 2050), human needs will be greater in future.

As a result, more forests and biodiversity disappear every year (in Togo, for instance, at the annual rate of 15,000 ha) to meet man's vital needs. Believing that he satisfies his current needs, man is unaware that he is committing suicide, killing the generations to come through deforestation and greenhouse-gas and forest-carbon production. Climate change, a direct consequence of such attitudes, causes rainfall, crucial to agricultural development, to be irregular. The resulting poor harvests, poverty, hunger and malnutrition lead to intra- and extra-continental and rural migration. These phenomena create other socio-economic problems compounded by racism, xenophobia and racial discrimination. For the period after 2015, it is imperative to review our ways of managing this world and its future prospects so to save humanity, which is steeped in uncertainty about tomorrow. Sustainable development goals, which are clear, must be pursued before it is too late: it is necessary not to exclude anyone, in other words to take everyone (indigenous women, migrants, persons with disabilities, older persons, young unemployed workers and other minorities) into account in all development activities. Not all countries, communities or individuals do so systematically. That is why education constitutes the most effective means for changing human behaviour so as to promote the post-2015 development agenda. Marginalisation of others, lack of democracy, corruption, egocentricism, cupidity and jealousy are often the cause of conflict.

Sustainable development is based on respect for human rights. That strengthens peace, a key to any development. It is incumbent on political decision-makers, parliamentarians and judicial authorities to use those elements in order to free men, women and children throughout the world from misery and poverty. Civil society must henceforth play a fundamental role in the sustainable development of the various countries. That is appropriate because civil society is close to the population, lives with it and can assess its needs. Protection and depoliticization of civil society is indispensable to the success of sustainable development. Thus, NGOs will be able to blossom and serve the peoples through involvement in the fight against climate change; promotion of peace based on an inclusive society; protection, restoration and promotion of biodiversity and forests; preservation and rational use of the oceans, the seas and their resources; reduction of inequalities within and among nations; inclusive economic development, with efficient resource

allocation and Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) in agriculture, energy and the drinking water supply, accessible to all with a view to a fuller life and well-being for all ages through food security, adequate nutrition, and elimination of hunger and poverty. Such improvements are impossible without a change in attitudes. Accordingly, education and sensitization to sustainable development are crucial because they will ensure generation of decent employment for all and will facilitate the construction of resilient infrastructure, innovation and inclusive industrialization.

The report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations entitled "The Road to Dignity by 2030" and especially the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda by world leaders reveal the international community's commitment to achieving the goals of sustainable development, which is linked to human development. All the projects must be based on the digital data revolution.

Funding and the relevant financing methods must be reviewed so that grants and bequests may be made available to civil society, especially in poor or developing countries, in which it often lacks financial resources to implement its initiatives, since its sole source of income consists in member contributions, while internal revenue sources (taxes, levies, customs duties etc.) finance the States.

Partnerships between the civil society and governments are a positive element but the international community should support civil society as much as national budgets in order to ensure balance among the actions of all stakeholders.

Recommendations

- Depoliticizing the social space;
- Providing development NGOs with access to business and marketing;
- Requiring governments to cooperate effectively with civil society bodies registered with DESA in connection with sustainable development;
- Requiring Member States to recognize and protect such bodies.

Sustainable development is the business of all. Governments, the civil society, communities and individuals, in short everyone, must contribute to reorganizing this world, which God kindly bequeathed to us and which, it is our intimate conviction, we are destroying.

Thanks to all readers.

United Nations E/CN.9/2015/NGO/10

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
1 January 2015

Original: English

Commission on Population and Development
Forty-eighth session
13-17 April 2015
General debate on national experience in population matters: realizing the future we want — integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda

Statement submitted by Asabe Shehu Yar'Adua Foundation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

14-67538 (E) 040215

Please recycle

Statement

Introduction

The Head of States and Government, high-level representatives met at Rio de Janeiro from 20 to 22 June, 2012 with participation of civil society organisations to renew sustainable development and promote economic, social and environmental sustainability for present and future generations. The aim of the meeting was to deliberate on "the future we want" and discussion therein includes but not limited to:

(a) Eradication of Poverty,

(b) Freedom, peace and security, respect for all human rights, adequate standard of living.

(c) Democracy, good governance and the rule of law at national and international level.

Bringing to reality the achievement of these goals and objectives the United Nations General Assembly in May 2012 in the discussion for the post-2015 development agenda, set up a task force team, and the task force team of the United Nations was saddled with the responsibilities of appraising the post 2015 development agenda and the task force team suggested four key dimensions for the attainment of the future we want and the achievement of the post 2015 development agenda and these includes:

(a) Inclusive economic and social development

(b) Environmental sustainability

(c) Peace and security.

Objectives

Sustainable development is a roadmap, an action plan for achieving sustainability in any activity that uses resources and where immediate and intergenerational replication is demanded.

The World Bank defines sustainable development as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

With critical analysis, one cannot help but ponder are we on the brink of achieving the future we want going by the post 2015 development agenda of the United Nations or at the verge of compromising the future generation at the expenses of the present generation.

Purpose of the statement

The United Nations set the year 2015 as a the time when certain developments ought to have been attained. The purpose of this paper is to analyse the future we want putting into consideration the population challenges, previous statistics and future expectations in comparison with the millennium development goals and towards achieving the post-2015 development agenda.

Facts and figures

A research by the journal *Pivotal Moment* on population, justice, and the environmental challenges states that more than 7 billion people currently inhabit the planet, compared to only 3 billion in 1967. Every year about 135 million people are born and 55 million people die adding 80 million to the global population. Almost half of the global population is under the age of 25 and their decisions during their reproductive years will determine whether we have 6 billion or 14 billion people by 2100.

The important fact about this statistic is that population is increasing at a geometric progression and the people that will make up the population in 2100 are already born. If nothing is done to curtail the population rate at this moment, the human wants will continue to be insatiable because the population is not growing in proportionate rate with development; a more decisive sustainable development needs to be put in place to achieve the post-2015 development agenda.

We have to start strengthening the understanding in all the countries of the world that population is a choice not an inexorable force of nature. In order to keep the economy in a state of sustainable development, a population must grow in correlation with the economic development.

Way forward and recommendations

Realizing the future we want in the midst of growing population and development, the following criteria need to be checked and integrated to integrate population growth into sustainable development.

(a) Empowering women and families regarding the number of children they should have; women's empowerment in this dimension encompasses knowledge of contraceptives for women, promoting of birth control and child spacing. In January 29, 2012 the Obama Administration finalized a ruling that insurance companies cover contraceptives without a broad religious exemption (New York Times January 2012).

(b) Education and job opportunities especially for women: This will strengthen the productivity of the growing population and produce a more sustainable development.

(c) Fight against corruption; corruption has affected many economies in the world and has resulted in many countries not achieving the Millennium Development Goals. In addition, it has affected developments and investment, led to increases in the rate of illiteracy and has resulted in perpetual poverty in the majority of countries in Africa. Statistics indicates that nearly half of the world's population, which is equivalent to 3 billion people live, on less than $2.50 per day, more than 1.3 billion live in extreme poverty that is less than $1.25 per day. The statistics further reveal that 1 billion children worldwide are living in poverty and 22,000 children die each day due to poverty. About 870 million people worldwide do not have enough food to eat (United Nations Children Fund). Other sources show that more than 1 billion people lack adequate access to clean drinking water and an estimated 400 million of these are children. Because unclean water yields illness, roughly 443 million school days are missed every year. In 2011, 165 million children under the age of five were stunted (reduced rate of growth and development) due to chronic malnutrition (UNICEF). From the above-mentioned

findings and statistics it could be enunciated that corruption is a disease that needs to be erased from all political and economic platforms to give room for the development of infrastructure, and service to the electorate.

(d) Social and traditional norms: a cursory examination of social and traditional norms in some cultures reveal that some traditional norms and cultures are working against the achievement of the post-2015 development agenda. Thus, a collaborative effort and agenda must be put in place to eradicate this phenomenon that has affected the life of others negatively and caused irreparable damage for the life of many.

(e) Eradication of illiteracy (especially for women): data released by UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) in 2011 indicates that there is a continual rise in the literacy rates for adults, youth and young women between the ages 15 to 24, but still lags behind young men. Despite this gain, 774 million adults (15 years and older) still cannot read or write, two-thirds of them (493 million) are women. Among youth, 123 million are illiterate of which 76 million are female. This depicts that illiteracy still remains dominant among young people, who will affect future population growth by 2100.

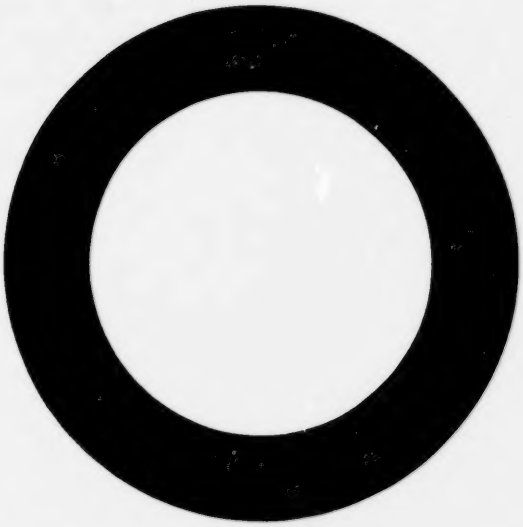
Conclusion

Realizing the future we want amidst growing population, environmental degradation, political instability and economic imbalance requires collective collaboration of governments at the global level in order to promote sustainable development.

Research has revealed that corruption has affected all governments and government agencies. It is our expectation that the United Nations will present opportunities to strengthen education and deal with corruption in the most affected countries in order to realize the post 2015-development agenda.

Furthermore, the United Nations needs to double its effort in the provision of peace in the world and for the promotion of peaceful co-existence among neighbouring countries.

Lastly, it is our recommendations and expectations that civil society organisations (CSO) be carried along and given a participatory role in the realization of "the future we want" and for the achievement of the post-2015 development agenda.



United Nations E/CN.9/2015/NGO/11

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
1 January 2015

Original: English

Commission on Population and Development
Forty-eighth session
13-17 April 2015
General debate on national experience in population matters: realizing the future we want — integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda

Statement submitted by Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

14-67540 (E) 300115

Please recycle

Statement

No sustainable development can be possible without sexual and reproductive health and rights

The Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights, representing over a thousand organizations and individuals worldwide working to realize the full sexual and reproductive health and rights of all people, welcomes the focus of the Commission on Population and Development on integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda.

At the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, governments worldwide recognized the centrality of human rights in achieving sustainable development. And as reaffirmed at last year's forty-seventh session of the Commission on Population and Development, population issues are inextricably linked with sustainable development, and must be integrated into development planning and efforts. In particular, governments recognized that health is a precondition for economic and social development, as well as central to the realization of social justice. Violations of the right to health, however, particularly in terms of individuals' sexual and reproductive health and rights, continue to serve as one of the biggest impediments to social justice and sustainable development. Often stemming from narrowly conceptualized programming and planning related to population and development, issues such as unsafe abortion, stigmatizing laws that target marginalized groups, and the absence or denial of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information and services, continue to contribute to negative development outcomes.

Evidence from the ground cannot be refuted. In terms of unsafe abortion, human rights treaty monitoring bodies such as the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, and the Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, as well as United Nations bodies such as the World Health Organization, have highlighted the clear relationship between restrictive abortion laws, unsafe abortion, and maternal morbidity and mortality. Countries with the most restrictive abortion laws experience the worst outcomes in terms of women and girls' health and their rights to life, security of person, and freedom from discrimination and cruel and inhumane treatment. Moreover, women and girls who are young, poor, unmarried, and/or in other vulnerable situations are disproportionately affected by the criminalization of abortion. They are more likely to terminate a pregnancy in nigher risk situations than women who are able to access and afford private healthcare services, thereby compromising their health and often risking their lives, highlighting the impact of restrictive abortion laws in perpetuating social injustice and inequality.

Similarly, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right of Everyone to the Enjoyment of the Highest Attainable Standard of Physical and Mental Health has noted the negative health outcomes stemming from discriminatory laws, programmes and policies that criminalize and in turn stigmatize certain groups, such as sex workers, individuals of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity, and people living with HIV, among others. As noted by the Special Rapporteur in his 2010 report, "stigmatization prevents legislative and policymaking institutions from adequately addressing health-related matters in communities that are especially vulnerable to the infringement of the enjoyment of the right to health." Young

people similarly face challenges in exercising their sexual and reproductive health and rights as a result of laws imposing parental and/or marital consent limitations on the availability and accessibility of sexual and reproductive health information and services. Without being able to fully and freely exercise their sexual and reproductive health and rights, and lacking access to comprehensive, rights-based and integrated health services, such groups experience increased levels of violence, poor health outcomes, an inability to stay in school or access decent employment, and loss of employment, among other consequences (Sexual Rights Initiative 2013), rendering meaningless any efforts for inclusive, sustainable, and rights-based development.

Many of the above outcomes largely stem from a narrow approach to population and development, failing to integrate the full scope of sexual and reproductive health and rights into national laws, policies and programmes, thereby failing to universally respect, protect, and fulfil individuals' human rights. Inversely, however, evidence from countries worldwide illustrates positive outcomes from the implementation of comprehensive policies and programmes accounting for sexual and reproductive health and rights. For example, in countries where abortion is decriminalized, and safe abortion information and services as well as a range of contraceptives are widely accessible, unsafe abortion and resulting maternal mortality and morbidity are effectively eradicated. Similarly, countries worldwide have shown that in the absence of discriminatory laws, and when comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information, education, and services are widely available, accessible, and of high-quality, contraceptive use is high, and rates of teenage pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, and maternal mortality are impressively low. The provision of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services has also been shown to have significant ripple effects for economic and social development, such as increased school attendance among girls, reduced levels of household poverty and hunger, reduced intergenerational transfers of poverty, mitigated socioeconomic impact of HIV/AIDS, and improved environmental sustainability, among others.

It is thus clearly evident how comprehensive national policies and programming that enable the full exercise of individuals' sexual and reproductive health and rights result in positive development outcomes, demonstrating the need for a broad and intersectional approach to addressing population and development issues. We thus call upon governments to take advantage of the forty-eighth session of the Commission on Population and Development, to not only reaffirm commitments surrounding the integration of population issues into sustainable development, but also strengthen and advance them as human rights issues, particularly as they relate to sexual and reproductive health and rights, and particularly in terms of their incorporation into the post-2015 development agenda.

As noted by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, sexual and reproductive health and rights enable the attainment of a whole range of other rights, and are essential in order to achieve social justice and sustainable development. It is thus high time that national laws, policies and programmes embody and reaffirm sexual and reproductive health and rights for what they are: human rights requiring respect, protection, and fulfilment, in order to attain holistic wellbeing.

Key recommendations for the conclusions of the forty-eighth session of the Commission on Population and Development:

(a) Reaffirm sexual and reproductive health and rights as human rights, integral to addressing population issues and achieving a universally relevant and transformative sustainable development agenda across its social, economic, and environmental dimensions;

(b) Recognize the need for comprehensive, intersectional policies and programmes related to population and development, which account for sexual and reproductive health and rights as central to the achievement of social justice;

(c) Incorporate the Programme of Action from the International Conference on Population and Development, as well as the outcome documents of its 20 year regional review conferences into the post-2015 development agenda;

(d) Thoroughly integrate human rights into the post-2015 development agenda, with the understanding that any meaningful efforts towards sustainable development must posit people as the drivers of development rather than passive receivers of aid priorities and programming;

(e) Ensure that the post-2015 development goals include targets and indicators on: the universal provision of and access to a full range of high-quality, voluntary, and user-friendly contraceptive methods, including emergency contraception; young people's access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information, education and services; the right to access safe abortion services, recommending that governments review and repeal laws that criminalize voluntary abortion, and remove all legal and implementation barriers to ensuring access to safe, comprehensive, and high-quality procedures for pregnancy termination; the eradication of all forms of violence and discrimination, including institutional violence, based on age, sex, sexual orientation and gender identity, class, ethnicity, religion, disability, migrant or HIV status, among other grounds;

(f) Include throughout the post-2015 development goals specific indicators focused on women and young people, so as to ensure that the human rights and empowerment of women, girls and young people are incorporated as a cross-cutting priority of the post-2015 development framework and its monitoring;

(g) In the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, prioritize the systematic and coordinated collection, analysis, and use of data disaggregated by sex, age, sexual orientation and gender identity, disability, location, income and other variables, to effectively monitor progress and ensure accountability.

United Nations E/CN.9/2015/NGO/12

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
1 January 2015

Original: English

Commission on Population and Development
Forty-eighth session
13-17 April 2015
General debate on national experience in population matters: realizing the future we want — integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda

Statement submitted by International Planned Parenthood Federation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

14-67542 (E) 300115

Please recycle

Statement

Introduction

At the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action (ICPD PoA), agreed in Cairo in 1994, the United Nations Member States defined 'reproductive rights' by shifting the population paradigm from numbers to people-centred, rights-based approaches. In doing so, the ICPD transformed the global understanding of the role of population and its interaction with sustained economic growth and sustainable development. In the 20 years since the introduction of the ICPD PoA, much progress has been made in providing fundamental sexual and reproductive and health and rights services for women and men around the world. The ICPD, its +5, +10 and +15 reviews and the ICPD beyond 2014 review process have clearly defined the rights, services and programmes that every individual should have; these must be reflected in the post-2015 agenda. Member States have recognised the importance of this revolutionary global agreement; now is the time to ensure its support for human rights-based sustainable development through the post-2015 framework.

Recommendations

The post-2015 framework presents an opportunity for the global community to make international commitments a reality. We recommend that regional and global commitment to include ICPD and its broader population and development agenda into the post-2015 negotiations is reflected in the outcome document of the forty-eighth session of the Commission on Population and Development, including through a specific recommendation that it should be considered a mandatory input into the post-2015 negotiation process.

We ask governments, during the forty-eighth session of the Commission to prioritise sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), using the commitments from the ICPD regional reviews as a minimum SRHR position. We recommend that:

(a) The outcome of the ICPD beyond 2014 process including the outcomes of the regional conferences are integrated into the post-2015 negotiation process, alongside the Open Working Group proposal and the Secretary General's Synthesis report.

(b) Sexual and reproductive health and rights are recognised as central to human rights-based sustainable development, with specific targets on universal access to sexual and reproductive health and the fulfilment of sexual and reproductive rights being included both under goals on gender and health in the post-2015 framework. Including sexual and reproductive health and rights under a standalone goal on gender would ensure that the aspects of structural norms and gender inequality that influence the realisation of these rights are addressed. Inclusion under the health goal would ensure the prioritisation of sexual and reproductive health services in the context of the right to health.

(c) Additionally, an integrated approach should be adopted, with other sexual and reproductive health and rights targets and indicators included throughout the new development framework, including in access to adequate hygiene services in schools and ensuring universal civil registration and vital statistics including birth, death and marriage.

(d) There is a commitment to promoting good governance, accountability and sufficient resourcing of sexual and reproductive health.

(e) There is a commitment to ensuring youth participation in the development and implementation of the post-2015 development framework.

(f) All data in the post-2015 development framework is disaggregated by age, gender, economic quintile, geographic location, ethnicity and other relevant attributes.

Building on ICPD into the Post-2015 agenda

Since its inception in 1994, the ICPD PoA has evolved and grown to reflect the shifts and changes in the social and political landscape. Key elements of sexual and reproductive health and rights that have gained Member State support after 1994 include comprehensive sexuality education (CPD 2009 and 2012), training and equipping health providers to provide safe abortion services in circumstances where abortion is not against the law (ICPD+5), and marital rape and honour killings as forms of violence (Beijing +5). Building on this strong basis, and recognising the need to ensure that the human rights landscape evolves, the ICPD beyond 2014 review process enabled governments, civil society organisations and service providers to reflect on and recommit to the ICPD PoA.

Each of the regional reviews has advanced the global agenda and these should serve as the bottom line for each of the regions in their post-2015 negotiation position. Member States from every region affirmed the importance of expanding the agenda and drew attention to the importance of:

(a) Universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (in the Western Asia region they called for universal access to sexual and reproductive health) including the elimination of violence or discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

(b) Adolescents' access to sexual and reproductive health services, including comprehensive sexuality education.

(c) Universal access to contraceptive information, services and supplies, and access to safe and legal abortion services without restriction.

(d) Elimination of violence against women and girls and all discrimination based on gender.

(e) Universal access to HIV services: access to integrated services, treatment and care.

(f) Planning population dynamics for growth and development.

At a regional level, some of the more specific areas of Member State agreement included:

(a) The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the League of Arab States: Cairo Declaration on "Development Challenges and Population Dynamics in a Changing Arab World" had a special focus on adolescent reproductive health. It calls for the elimination of female genital mutilation, early and forced marriage and gender based violence.

(b) The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe: "Enabling Choices: Population priorities for the 21st Century" calls for restrictions within existing abortion laws to be removed, to safeguard the lives of women and adolescent girls.

(c) United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean: "Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development" provided the first inter-governmentally agreed definition of sexual rights and strong agreements on issues of sexual orientation and gender identity and eradicating discrimination and violence on this basis. It also recognized that 'some experiences in the region have demonstrated that the penalization of abortion leads to higher rates of maternal mortality and morbidity and does not reduce the number of abortions.'

(d) United Nations Economic and Social Commission of Asia Pacific: "Asian and Pacific Declaration on Population and Development" recognizes that 'sexual and reproductive rights' embrace certain human rights. It calls for the implementation of comprehensive sexuality education programmes and the removal of legal and social barriers to accessing youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services. For the first time governments adopted language on intimate partner violence.

(e) United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and African Union: "Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development in Africa beyond 2014" committed to protect the dignity and rights of women and girls by eradicating all harmful practices, including early and/or forced marriages and female genital mutilation/cutting. It also called for universal access to sexual and reproductive health information and services, with particular attention to the needs of adolescents and youth; the integration of sexual and reproductive health services and HIV/AIDS services with family planning.

This support for the ICPD Programme of Action and the outcomes of its review conferences and its essential role in achieving sustainable development and ending extreme poverty by 2030 was further reflected at the forty-seventh session of the Commission on Population and Development, which reaffirmed Member States' commitment to the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action, recognized the documents from the regional conferences on population and development, and linked ICPD beyond 2014 to the post-2015 development agenda. It specifically stressed "the importance of protecting the achievements of the International Conference on Population and Development, responding to new challenges relevant to population and development and to the changing development environment, and reinforcing the integration of the population and development agenda in global processes related to development, including in the process related to the post-2015 development agenda". This support was also seen at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the ICPD in September 2014, where Member States spoke consistently in support of the ICPD PoA and the positive influence that it has had at national level in improving individuals' lives through access to sexual and reproductive health services. Member States spoke of the importance and their commitment to the ICPD PoA beyond 2014, and for this to be truly realized we must ensure the PoA lives on in the new post-2015 development framework.

United Nations E/CN.9/2015/NGO/13

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
1 January 2015

Original: English

Commission on Population and Development
Forty-eighth session
13-17 April 2015
General debate on national experience in population matters: realizing the future we want — integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda

Statement submitted by Federation for Women and Family Planning, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

14-67545 (E) 300115

Please recycle

Statement

Realizing the future we want: integrating sexual and reproductive health and rights into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda

Federation for Women and Family Planning on behalf of ASTRA and ASTRA Youth Networks welcomes the priority theme of forty-eighth session of the Commission on Population and Development: "Realizing the future we want: integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda". As the international community, we stand at the critical point of building upon the significance of the 20th anniversary of ICPD Programme of Action and evolving towards the post-2015 development framework, which will set the foundations for future population advancement. Thus it is high time we address the vitality of inclusion of sexual and reproductive health and rights into the future agenda and advancement of sustainable development through these.

The realization of human rights lies at the core of achieving sustainable development. This has been recognized, inter alia, in the Rio+20 outcome document and the set of sustainable development goals prepared by the Open Working Group, which provides one of the mandates for post-2015 framework and places health, education and equality at the core of economic and social growth. Full realization of sexual and reproductive health and rights is crucial to achieve progress. To facilitate education and employment attainment and enable meaningful and productive contribution to society, it is necessary to provide universal access to affordable, acceptable, youth-friendly, high-quality reproductive and sexual health services; implement comprehensive sexuality education programmes through in-and out-of-school surroundings, counteract discrimination and violence against all, especially marginalized groups. Although the importance of sexual and reproductive health and rights to sustainable development is undisputable, challenges with their recognition and realization are encountered.

Central and Eastern Europe serves as an example of remaining challenges concerning population issues, particularly sexual and reproductive health and rights. In the last decades the countries of the region have struggled with the burden of transformation, resulting in significant economic and social disparities and therefore hindering human rights' advancement. Currently the region experiences a rise of fundamentalism, including religious, and well-organized and funded opposition aiming to block access of youth and women to basic reproductive and sexual health services and information. The increase of radicalisms along with lack of political will pose a serious threat to the progressive work of civil society. Taking into consideration all these factors and recent developments, it is evident that women's and girls' human rights, especially sexual and reproductive rights, are currently under crisis in Central and Eastern Europe.

Both the Rio+20 outcome document entitled "The future we want" and the sustainable development goals proposal indicate that to "ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, including for family planning, information and education"[1] is of great importance in the future development

[1] Report of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations General Assembly, August 2014.

agenda. The policies in the region to ensure this access, including modern contraception, safe abortion, prevention of sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS are not sufficient and do not address the needs of the most vulnerable groups. Adolescents are denied the possibility to make responsible and informed choices, facing economic and legal limitations in access to contraception, such as age restrictions and necessity of parental and/or spousal consent. Girls and women across the region encounter difficulties with accessing abortion services and as a consequence resort to clandestine and unsafe abortions threatening their health and lives. The region also struggles with the growing epidemic of HIV/AIDS as the rates have tripled in the last decade and are still increasing, being the highest among adolescents and women.[2] The prevalence of abortion and unintended adolescent pregnancies in Central and Eastern Europe is three times higher than in the West.[3]

Comprehensive sexuality education remains a compelling issue for young people and adolescents as it is not implemented across the region. The existing school curricula are inadequate and often limited to information on biology and risk prevention. Limiting access to comprehensive information on sexual and reproductive health combined with obstacles in accessing healthcare services hinder adolescents' and young people's safe and healthy transition into adulthood. They are therefore vulnerable to health damage, coercion and intersectional discrimination. Young girls face particular risks of stigma and social exclusion as unintended pregnancies may lead to school dropout and block the way to complete education and entering the labour market. Furthermore, the realization of human potential, especially of women and girls is threatened by persistent discrimination and violence, including sexual violence, on the basis of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation and gender identity and other factors, which happens both in private and public spheres.

Throughout the process of creating the post-2015 development framework there has been growing understanding that the new agenda will not be successfully implemented without ensuring rights of young people and women. The synthesis report of the Secretary General on the post-2015 agenda "The Road to Dignity by 2030" recognizes that the realization of reproductive health and rights and ensuring gender equality and non-discriminatory environment is vital to enhancing and maintaining sustainable development.[4] It must be recognized that women, who represent half of world's population today, and 1.8. billion young people are struggling with the consequences of their sexual and reproductive rights violations. To overcome these challenges, the post-2015 development framework must address properly the needs and rights of youth and women and recognize that the realization of sexual and reproductive health and rights is essential to achieve the future we want.

ASTRA and ASTRA Youth recommend the following actions to be undertaken by the governments in order to enhance young people's and women's rights:

---

[2] HIV/AIDS surveillance in Europe, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, WHO Regional Office for Europe, November 2014.

[3] Population trends and Policies in the UNECE region. Outcomes, Policies and Possibilities, UNFPA, July 2013.

[4] The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending Poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Planet. Synthesis Report of the Secretary-General On the Post-2015 Agenda, December 2014.

1. Ensure that the post-2015 development agenda includes the goals regarding realization of sexual and reproductive health and rights, including providing universal access to sexual and reproductive health and information.

2. Realize the highest attainable standard of sexual and reproductive health, particularly for young people and women. This can be accomplished by eliminating all economic and legal barriers in access to safe, affordable, acceptable, modern contraception, providing access to safe and legal abortion services and ensuring comprehensive sexually transmitted infections and HIV counselling and treatment. These services must meet the needs of all young people and women, especially those marginalized on the basis of ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and other factors.

3. Secure adolescents' right to information on their sexual and reproductive health through implementation of comprehensive sexuality education in and out of school surroundings. The programmes which are to provide young people with knowledge and skills crucial for their healthy and safe development need to be mandatory, non-discriminatory, non-judgmental, evidence-based and provided accordingly with evolving youth capacities.

4. Monitor and evaluate the existing policies regarding sexual and reproductive health and ensure they are free of barriers pertaining access of adolescents and women to health care services and discrimination, especially of those of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities, with disabilities and ethnic minorities.

United Nations E/CN.9/2015/NGO/14

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
1 January 2015

Original: English

Commission on Population and Development
Forty-eighth session
13-17 April 2015
General debate on national experience in population matters: realizing the future we want — integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda

Statement submitted by German Foundation for World Population, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

14-67546 (E) 300115

Please recycle

Statement

Call for a stronger commitment to the sexual and reproductive health and rights of the largest youth generation of all time

Today's youth generation is the largest in history. Moreover, the number of 10- to 24-year-olds will continue to grow to over two billion by 2050 with 89 per cent living in low- and middle-income countries (according to the 2012 Revision of the *World Population Prospects*). Much has been said and written about the potential of these countries to cash in on the demographic dividend if sufficient investments in the rights, health, education and employment of young people are made. Still, many development strategies thus far do not adequately consider projections of future population dynamics, and political commitment for the rights and needs of young people in many countries is severely lacking. The purpose of this statement is to emphasize the urgent need to integrate specifically the sexual and reproductive health and rights of young people in the post-2015 development agenda in order to ensure prospering populations and sustainable development for the future.

Population dynamics create a number of political as well as societal challenges, especially in the area of assuring nutrition, universal access to quality health coverage, education and training, as well as for technical and social infrastructure. These challenges need to be met with strategically sound, evidence-based policies and planning which protect human rights and individual choices. It is part of the basic human rights to have access to information, to health and to decide freely and consciously if, when and with whom to have children and how many.

Yet, 225 million women today have an unmet need for contraception due to coercion, stigma, discrimination or lack of accessibility. Every year, 7.3 million girls under the age of 18 bear a child, while complications during pregnancy or childbirth are among the leading causes of death for girls between 15 and 19. Many of these girls are denied the opportunity to develop their potential to earn their livelihood or contribute to the socio-economic development of their countries.

These and many other statistics highlight the serious consequences when the sexual and reproductive health and rights of young people are not ensured. And they show what we see every day as a non-profit organisation working in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. Addressing the challenges mentioned above, our work centres on development programmes, advocacy, and awareness-raising. In this capacity, we work together with governments, administration, local communities and leaders, health workers and facilities, parents and teachers, as well as the youth themselves (primarily in the context of peer-to-peer youth clubs). We thus know from experience how crucial legal frameworks, infrastructure and financial investment are to facilitate change on the ground, particularly in settings most affected by poverty.

Building on the above, the Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevoelkerung (German Foundation for World Population) wishes to impress upon member states to prioritise the following issues:

1. Achievement of universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights for all — irrespective of sex, ethnicity, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or other factors.

2. Investment in gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls to ensure women's and girls' rights and to enable them to decide freely how and whom to live with, which career to choose, or if and when to have children and how many.

3. Availability of high-quality primary and secondary education, including comprehensive sexuality education, for both girls and boys in and out of school to allow them to make informed decisions about their lives.

4. Improvement of data collection and analysis to include disaggregation based on sex, age, geographic location, economic quintile, and marital status, so that development strategies reflect future size, age structure, and geographical distribution of their populations.

With a view to the recent and ongoing international processes leading to the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda, which will be adopted at the Special Summit on Sustainable Development in New York in September 2015, we put forward the following recommendations:

1. The outcomes of the ICPD operational and regional review as well as the Secretary-General's report need to be reflected in the goals, targets, and indicators, as Member States have consistently affirmed, for example by calling for the ICPD Programme of Action to live on in the post-2015 development framework at the forty-seventh session of the Commission on Population and Development in April 2014 and the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 in September 2014.

2. The recommendations put forth by the Open Working Group for the Sustainable Development Goals should serve as the basis of the intergovernmental negotiations of the post-2015 development agenda.

3. Going beyond the OWG report, however, the post-2015 development agenda must address the sexual and reproductive health and rights of the most vulnerable and/or marginalized groups, such as children and youth, as well as the elderly, disabled, and indigenous people. This includes providing comprehensive sexuality education to all young people, in and out of school.

4. We welcome the report of the Secretary-General "The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending Poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Planet" in that it demands adequate means of implementation and financing, as well as sufficient data disaggregation. However, the report falls short on addressing the root causes of gender inequality that hamper the full realisation of women's and girls' rights, true gender equality and empowerment. Commitment to tackling these root causes must not be lost in the reframing of the OWG report around "essential elements" as suggested in the Secretary General's report.

Only if states are mindful of population dynamics, putting a focus on young people and their sexual and reproductive health and rights, will they be able to tap into the potential of the demographic dividend to reduce poverty and improve quality of life for their populations. Already in the Millennium Development Goals, these issues were not given adequate attention, even though investments in this area are among those with the highest return on investment, and even though these issues are inherent in the universal human rights of all people. The window of opportunity is closing fast. It is therefore essential that the above-mentioned aspects are considered for the post-2015 development agenda as the primary framework for shaping the future of this planet and its people in the coming years.

United Nations E/CN.9/2015/NGO/15

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
4 January 2015

Original: English

Commission on Population and Development
Forty-eighth session
13-17 April 2015
General debate on national experience in population matters: realizing the future we want — integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda

Statement submitted by Stichting dance4life, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

14-67547 (E) 300115

Please recycle

Statement

This statement is written on behalf of The PACT,* a collaboration of 25 youth organizations, including young people living with HIV and young people from key populations, committed to work together to ensure the health, well-being and human rights of all young people.

Today there are 1.8 billion young people between the ages of 10 and 24. As the post-2015 development agenda takes shape, the voices, realities, needs, and rights of young people are systematically overlooked.

HIV is now the second leading cause of death for adolescents worldwide. In 2013, almost 60 per cent of all new HIV infections among young people aged 15-24 occurred among adolescent girls and young women (UNAIDS 2014). And while efforts to reduce the preventable deaths due to complications during pregnancy and childbirth have intensified, they remain the leading cause of death of adolescent girls aged 15-19 (UNFPA 2014).

The Secretary-General's Index Report on the ICPD Programme of Action called for scaling up, standardizing and strengthening youth-friendly health policies and programmes, including the full participation of young people in the development and implementation of such programmes. We welcome this call and urge Member States to take concrete steps during the Commission on Population and Development to turn this call into action.

Through the ACT 2015 movement, over 187 community dialogues were held in every region by young people from late 2013 through early 2014. These community dialogues allowed young people, including the most marginalized and vulnerable, to set their advocacy priorities for the post-2015 development agenda.

---

* The PACT is a collaboration between the following organizations:
Association Affirmative Action
Association de Lutte Contre le SIDA
dance4life
Espolea
Girl-Talk Foundation
Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS
Haus of Khameleon
HIV Young Leaders Fund
IFMSA
International Community of Women Living with HIV
International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Youth and Student Organisation (IGLYO)
International Planned Parenthood Federation
Jamaica Youth Advocacy Network
Men who have sex with men Global Forum
MTV Staying Alive Foundation
Namibia Women's Health Network
Next Step
Uganda Network of Young People Living with HIV
Women Deliver
Y+, the Global Network of Young People Living with HIV
Youth Peer Education Network (Y-PEER)
Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights
Youth LEAD
Youth RISE
Youth Voices Count

Based on the outcomes of the 187 community dialogues, we call upon the Commission on Population and Development to include the following recommendations for integrating population issues and the voices of young people into the Post-2015 development agenda:

First, target 3.3 on ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030 must outline a specific indicator that measures progress towards ending the AIDS epidemic among adolescents and young people by guaranteeing equitable, universal, and affordable access to prevention, treatment, care and support for all people across the life course.

Moreover, through the ACT 2015 community dialogues, young people around the world make a clear and collective call to end stigma and discrimination, particularly for young people living with HIV and young people from key populations, including young people who inject drugs, young people involved in selling sex and young men who have sex with men and young transgender people. It will be impossible to end the AIDS epidemic unless we invest in programmes that challenge the social and cultural environment in which stigma and discrimination are allowed to thrive. Tracking progress towards zero stigma and zero discrimination must be included as an indicator in relation to target 3.3.

Second, to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030, young people have called for the transformation of social norms around gender and sexuality so that all young people, in all their diversity, are free from stigma and discrimination.

Third, we call upon Member States to formulate specific indicators under the health and education goal to ensure universal access to comprehensive sexuality education. Again and again young people have made this call, through various post-2015 consultations and in numerous formal settings. Today, we are again insisting that our right to comprehensive sexuality education be recognized and formalized within the SDG framework.

Fourth, too often, adolescents and young people living with HIV are treated not as rights-holders but as beneficiaries of treatment programmes. All young people have the right to access sexual and reproductive health services and information and make independent decisions about our own bodies. We therefore urge Member States to ensure the health goal addresses the political determinants of health, such as age-related barriers to HIV testing and other services including harm reduction.

To conclude, in order to ensure a more equitable, rights-based and youth-friendly HIV response, we need:

1. A specific target for universal sexual and reproductive health rights in the health goal;

2. A specific target for universal access to harm reduction services in the health goal;

3. Indicators that measure coverage of comprehensive sexuality education and increase in young people's HIV knowledge;

4. An indicator tracking progress on stigma and discrimination, particularly on age, gender, sexual orientation and gender identity and HIV status;

5. An overall framework that addresses the political and social determinants of health;

6. And, to ensure equity, we must measure progress on all targets by data disaggregated by sex and age.

For years we have raised our voices to call for a progressive post-2015 development agenda that protects the sexual and reproductive health and rights of all people, everywhere. We cannot allow the promise of youth in the post-2015 agenda to only address less controversial agendas such as employment and education. Member States only identifying and promoting certain needs of young people is not acceptable. We have now a brief window of opportunity to ensure that the rights of all people, particularly young people, adolescents and others who are marginalized through systems of inequality, are upheld and protected at all costs. We urge Member States to hear our call to action: you must not allow our human rights to be deemed "too controversial".

United Nations E/CN.9/2015/NGO/16

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
4 January 2015

Original: English

Commission on Population and Development
Forty-eighth session
13-17 April 2015
General debate on national experience in population matters: realizing the future we want — integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda

Statement submitted by Priests for Life, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

14-67548 (E) 300115

Please recycle

Statement

The future we want, A/RES/66/288, was agreed by Heads of State and government representatives who shared a common vision of renewed commitment to sustainable development and to ensure promotion "of an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future for our planet and for present and future generations."

They recognized that "poverty eradication is the greatest global challenge facing the world today" and "that people are at the centre of sustainable development and, in this regard, we strive for a world that is just, equitable and inclusive, and we commit to work together to promote sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development and environmental protection and thereby to benefit all".

Priests for Life acknowledges the urgent need to eradicate poverty and its devastating impact and to implement programmes and policies that will directly benefit all people, today and in the future.

We believe that the well-being, dignity, and worth of all — every human life without exception — is the foundation of policies and programmes that liberate countries and, most importantly, people from poverty. All individuals have the potential to make significant contributions to eradicating poverty; no life is expendable.

The future we want is one in which every human life is valued for his or her innate worth and no member of the human family is stripped of human dignity and denied the most basic right — the right to life — through policies that allow individuals to be marginalized and treated as a problem, rather than as potential contributors to poverty eradication.

Population control and reproductive health programmes that target the elimination of children through abortion discriminate against children in the womb, and conflict with the Convention on the Rights of the Child which reminds us, "the child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth".

The provision of health care services that respect the right to life of each and every human life are essential to continued progress in reducing both maternal and child mortality. Evidence shows that the provision of life-affirming maternal health care reduces maternal deaths.

Efforts to provide all mothers with skilled birth assistance must continue in the post-2015 development agenda. Skilled childbirth attendants recognize obstetric emergencies and help women receive critical emergency obstetric care and treatment. Complications from childbirth including hemorrhage — the number one cause of maternal death — must continue to be treated and prevented while mothers receive essential clean blood transfusions and antibiotics. Increased access to pre-natal care, including adequate nutrition and vitamins, will save the lives of both mothers and children.

Women need greater access to health care for prevention and treatment of disease and disorders including malaria, HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, anemia, malaria,

cardiovascular disease, tuberculosis, epilepsy, and diabetes — all factors that increase the risk of maternal death.

Access to abortion, whether in the context of "reproductive ealth" or "reproductive rights", or as a component of population control, is opposed and restricted by many countries. Access to abortion does not have universal support, is not a universally recognized human right, and does not belong in the post-2015 development agenda.

The 2014 report "Abortion laws and other reproductive rights policies and data around the world" by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat reveals that policies on abortion "remain restrictive in many countries", and "only about one third of countries (36 per cent) permitted abortion for economic or social reasons or on request", while "only in half of the countries when the pregnancy resulted from rape or incest or in cases of foetal impairment."

The impact of 'the missing children' is a challenge for a record number of countries whose low fertility rates have resulted in too few young workers who can contribute to social security and pension programmes and take the place of elderly workers who have been forced to work years beyond retirement. Governments are facing unprecedented social development challenges due to the decline in births, while the existing population ages in unprecedented numbers.

Abortion laws and other reproductive rights policies and data around the world document the dramatic decline in fertility, "... the number of countries with total fertility below the replacement level (2.1 children per woman) has increased from 55 countries in 1990-1995 to 86 countries in 2010-2015."

The report reveals the record-setting number of actions to increase birth rates among developed countries: "the percentage of Governments with policies to raise fertility has almost doubled (from 14 per cent in 1996 to 27 per cent in 2013)" while more than two thirds of Governments in developed regions "had policies to raise fertility".

It explains that the decline is not limited to developed countries: "Between 1996 and 2013, the percentage of Governments with policies to raise fertility has also increased in developing regions, from 8 per cent in 1996 to 14 per cent in 2013), while the percentage with policies to lower fertility has remained mostly unchanged (56 per cent in 1996 and 57 per cent 2013)" and states, "... the percentage of Governments with policies to raise fertility was highest in Europe (73 per cent)."

As some countries struggle to increase fertility, others are working to reduce newborn mortality. Both are critical areas for progress in the post-2015 development agenda.

The United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME), in the 2013 report — "Levels & Trends in Child Mortality" — reported on the need for increased efforts to save the lives of newborns stating, "The proportion of under-five deaths that occur within the first month of life (the neonatal period) has increased 19 percent since 1990, from 37 percent to 44 percent, because declines in the neonatal mortality rate are slower than those in the mortality rate for older children."

The report also reveals that while the deaths of children under age five declined, nearly 18,000 children under five years of age died every day in 2012. The causes of their deaths included preventable and treatable conditions attributed to pneumonia, preterm birth complications, complications during birth, diarrhea and malaria. Undernutrition was a factor in 45 percent of under-five deaths.

The provision of nutrition demands special attention in the post-2015 agenda. Malnutrition is the underlying cause of death for at least 3.1 million children a year. More than 800,000 babies — one in four newborns — die each year because they are born too soon or too small as a result of poor maternal nutrition.

It is increasingly recognized that adequate nutrition during the first 1,000 days of life — from conception to the second birthday — saves the lives of women and children and reduces stunted growth and malnutrition.

When women of child-bearing age are well-nourished, they are healthier and better able to provide nourishment for their child in the womb, able to successfully and exclusively breastfeed, and to make nutritious food choices for their child under age two; all essential to ensuring healthy physical and cognitive development. When children thrive, they are empowered to become healthy adults who are better equipped to make meaningful contributions to their families, society, and country.

The elimination of malnutrition during the first 1,000 days of life for a child, and the provision of nutrition for all women of child-bearing age, will not only save the lives of women and children and contribute to their well-being, but will improve the economies of countries.

Priests for Life believes that women, and countries, deserve programmes and policies in the post-2015 development agenda that ensure healthy reproduction and believes that every newly created life has innate worth and dignity.

The intrinsic dignity of life is the foundation of human rights. Life is not just for the privileged, the perfect and the planned, but extends to all members of the human family, including preborn children. Policies to eradicate poverty must recognize the potential of all individuals to help to solve the problem of poverty and not treat any group of people as a problem.

Priests for Life believes that "The Future We Want" is one which respects the dignity and worth of all lives, from conception to natural death.

United Nations E/CN.9/2015/NGO/17

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
4 January 2015

Original: English

Commission on Population and Development
Forty-eighth session
13-17 April 2015
General debate on national experience in population matters: realizing the future we want — integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda

Statement submitted by Smile Foundation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

14-67549 (E) 300115

Please recycle

Statement

Life cycle approach to development complemented with civic driven change

A solution integrating population issues into sustainable development: Smile Foundation

Introduction

India has a population of 1.21 billion (Government of India, Census 2011) and growing. This trend is a reason to cheer as well as worry. On one side, it offers the advantage of a demographic dividend, where a greater proportion of people are young and in the working age-group. On the other side, a large proportion of the people lack basic amenities. As per Government of India estimates, more than 21 per cent of the population, which is close to 269 million people, lives below the poverty line and the absolute numbers of poor people are increasing.

This scenario in India poses challenges such as generating employment avenues for youth; ensuring not just school enrolments, but quality education to children; reducing the pressure on over-strained infrastructure facilities such as basic health care; ensuring food security and reducing malnutrition; striving for gender equality and empowerment, migration and urbanization posing unbearable strain on urban amenities; stress and over exploitation of natural resources and its effect on nature and its environment. There is a need to address this demographic imbalance and move towards sustainable development.

Overview of the issue as it relates to the work of the NGO

Smile Foundation was set up in 2002 by a group of young corporate friends with an aim to make a difference in the lives of the underprivileged. In order to achieve its mission, Smile Foundation works as a catalyst in bringing sustainable change to the lives of poor children, youth and women, with a life-cycle approach of sustainable development. Smile believes that development and the well-being of children is intertwined with their family and community, therefore, Smile has adopted the integrated model of development, weaving initiatives like education for children, healthcare for maternal and child health, skill enhancement for youth, and empowerment of women and girls.

Smile has a two pronged intervention strategy towards integrating population issues into sustainable development. While there is a need for integrated interventions to make a difference in the lives of the underprivileged, there is also need to capture the bigger mass of privileged people as partner in change to facilitate sustainable development. This is a unique proposition of Smile's model.

Currently, Smile Foundation is directly benefiting over 300,000 children and their families every year, through 158 welfare projects on education, healthcare, livelihood and women's empowerment, in more than 700 remote villages and slums across 25 states of India.

Life cycle approach to development

Education for Children — Children are the future of a nation. Smile Foundation believes that Education is both the means as well as the end to a better life: means, because it empowers an individual to earn his/her livelihood and the end because it increases one's awareness on a range of issues — from healthcare to appropriate social behaviour to understanding one's rights — and in the process evolve as a better citizen. Smile's education program caters to poor children who are mainly first generation learners. The process of schooling/learning leads to their sustainable development.

Healthcare for People — Poor and weaker sections of society suffer from adverse health conditions owing to lack of access, availability and affordability of basic healthcare services in urban slums & remote rural areas. Smile Foundation addresses these issues by bringing quality healthcare services to people through mobile medical units. Serious health problems lead to destabilization of the families by draining out all economic resources and crippling the further generation of funds. The programme Smile on Wheels has emerged as a practical solution to address this lacuna by addressing the healthcare demands well in time so that they do not become severe in nature. In addition to the diagnostic or curative care component, the programme also focuses on enhancing the health awareness of people. The Foundation also believes in strengthening the existing government health machinery by working in close coordination with government departments through grass root level health workers.

Skill Enhancement for Youth — mile Twin e-learning programme (STEP) is an initiative of Smile Foundation, working with a bifocal approach, for the sustainable development and economic independence of poor youth. The programme imparts employment skills to the youth from marginalized communities by providing them high-quality professional training. The programme has been instrumental in helping youth attain a basic quality of life and live a sustainable life with dignity. The programme not only facilitates the youth to integrate themselves into the mainstream industry but also boosts the confidence level of these youth as well as their families.

Women Empowerment — Swabhiman is a programme focused on empowerment of women and adolescent girls from low socio-economic strata of the society. The program also focuses on promoting education of adolescent girls through a component of scholarship to realize their full potential. Swabhiman promotes and improves health-seeking behaviour to ensure safe motherhood through counselling to newly married couples, pregnant women, lactating mothers. It also provides maternal and child healthcare services through mobile health clinics. The programme has been successful in enabling women and girls to lead a life of dignity, and function as change agents to improve health-seeking behaviour in the community with focus on maternal and child health. Thus, the programme has been addressing various population-related issues by helping women make informed decisions.

Civic driven change

Smile Foundation believes that unless members of the civil society are involved proactively in the process of development, sustainable change will not happen. Believing in this principle of 'Civic Driven Change', Smile Foundation

sensitizes the civil society with special focus on children in order to make them partners in its mission.

Smile Foundation came up with Child For Child (CFC) programme in 2006. Sensitization of privileged children and their parents, towards the existing inequalities around them, is an important objective of this programme. Privileged children are sensitized about the deprivation and pain endured by their less privileged counterparts. This programme seeks to inculcate a conscience and value system in the children so that they grow up to become responsible citizens and change makers. Before their minds are set with age, the Child For Child programme tries to make them count their own blessings and understand the plight of less privileged ones. Once they start realizing the worth of the privileges they are born with, they automatically turn their thoughts towards positivism and develop the right outlook. This eventually helps them develop into not only successful but responsible individuals in life. They grow up to become significant change makers, who contribute positively to the society.

Under Child For Child programme, Smile Foundation visits various schools and conducts engaging sessions for the young minds. It sensitizes children towards various causes and let them emerge as change agents.

Child For Child programme currently reaches out to nearly one million privileged children in 900 schools spread across 417 districts of India, every year. In addition, their parents and teachers are also involved in the process.

A way forward: expectations, specific recommendations

Life cycle approach to sustainable development

The programme models as well as the implementation strategies practiced by Smile have given excellent results. The objective of the organization has been to "pull out" the present generations of underprivileged people from the shackles of illiteracy, unemployment, ill health and disadvantage through our Life Cycle Approach. The aim is that underprivileged or disadvantaged people take charge of their lives and lead from a position of advantage with focus on larger sustainable development.

Gender Focus

All the programmes have a strong gender element so that the under-served and disadvantaged remain at the very core of intervention. The measures to improve gender equality and empowerment shall lead us to a more equitable society.

Engagement of civil society with special focus on privileged children

The process of change will be faster and more efficient when members of civil society join the mission. In line with this philosophy, Smile Foundation has been garnering and engaging civil society agents in the process of bringing sustainable development for the underprivileged. At Smile, we strongly believe that if each privileged person commits to bring out a deprived person from the vicious cycle of poverty or do his/her bit to make a difference then sustainable development of all in Indian context is not far off. In the last decade, privileged Indians have shown an inclination to extend their support for the cause of development, and the

organization is hoping that this trend will be further strengthened to have a nation performing well on various developments parameters.

We believe that when discrimination is reduced, it invokes positivism in the system. And for ensuring this, a strong civil society and participation of people also has to be ensured.

United Nations E/CN.9/2015/NGO/18

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
4 January 2015

Original: English

Commission on Population and Development
Forty-eighth session
13-17 April 2015
General debate on national experience in population matters: realizing the future we want — integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda

Statement submitted by Awaz Centre for Development Services, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

14-67552 (E) 300115

Please recycle

Statement

AWAZ Centre for Development Services (AWAZCDS-Pakistan) and Rutgers WPF Pakistan, in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, working for the recognition and promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights in Pakistan, welcome the theme of the forty-eighth session of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development "Realizing the future we want: integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda".

It is a time for reflection for states, as the process of designing new development commitments is being finalized in form of the post-2015 development agenda and Sustainable Development Goals — SDGs. The ICPD Programme of Action, adopted with consensus by 179 Governments in Cairo in September 1994, marked the beginning of a new chapter in the intergovernmental discourse on the interrelationship between population, human rights, sustained economic growth and sustainable development. The landmark agreement was made with a promise to protect human rights, with special emphasis on reproductive health and rights; to invest in health and education; to advance gender equality; and to empower women and young people by providing equal opportunities to all. After the major paradigm shift brought by ICPD, the Millennium Development Goals ushered a new era of development priorities. MDGs originally did not build on the gains made for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), but tried to rectify the original exclusion of SRHR by incorporating MDG 5b "universal access to reproductive health".

Independent reviews of these frameworks and recent consultative process on the post-2015 development framework argue that progress in many areas has been unequal and fragmented, however at the same time new challenges and opportunities have emerged. Many people continue to live in a context of discrimination and inequality, and human rights are not fully realized for all. The goal of gender equality still appears elusive, with gender-based discrimination and violence continuing to affect millions. Large and persistent gaps remain between the most advantaged and marginalized populations, especially with respect to access to sexual and reproductive health rights and services.

In Pakistan, 65 per cent of the population is comprised of young people that illustrates a major potential for a fledgling nation, provided that the government demonstrates political leadership and ensures compliance to the ICPD Programme of Action. We need to harness the potential of adolescents and youth in Pakistan who are the key future resource for sustainable development by being key agents of social change.

However, young people and their needs remain socially excluded. The assumption that boys and girls under 18 are "too young" to need sexual and reproductive health information and services ignores the realities and environmental factors and keeps young people from acquiring practical knowledge and skills they need to protect themselves from abuse, exploitation and disease. They continue to bear the brunt of sexual and reproductive health burdens, which in turn makes them vulnerable to sexual violence and exploitation, unintended pregnancy, unsafe abortion and STIs, maternal morbidity and mortality. These are formative years for young people and the lack of necessary information and services translates into unhealthy behaviour and in turn unsure emergence into adulthood.

In Pakistan, the most common form of victimisation of women and girls is with regards to their sexual and reproductive health and the most common violation of the rights of women and girls is that of their sexual and reproductive rights. Women and girls have constrained decision-making and reduced life choices; contraceptive prevalence is also extremely low especially among married adolescents; they are ill equipped to face livelihood demands and they frequently experience domestic violence. According to the Pakistan Demographic Health Survey (PDHS) 2013 only 35.4 per cent of women between the ages of 15 to 49 are currently using any method of contraception; PDHS 2007 states that the maternal mortality rate stands at 276 per 100,000. According to the research carried out by the Punjab Welfare Department and Social Welfare Department, around 42 per cent of women accepted violence as a part of their life. It is estimated that 70 to 90 per cent of women suffer from domestic violence with approximately one woman being raped every two hours. This alarming situation cannot be rectified without addressing the root causes that stem from violation of SRH rights of women and girls.

The ICPD's Programme of Action and commitments for further action have continued to champion the cause of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights of young people and women. Therefore it is unfortunate that the United Nations Secretary-General Synthesis Report on post-2015 has no explicit reference to the outcome of the ICPD Operational Review. Furthermore, the synthesis report contains elements of grave concern when it comes to Pakistan. The document mentions womens' reproductive health and rights, but not those of adolescents and young people. Additionally, the document contains no reference to the sexual health of women and young people. Therefore in the context of Pakistan it is crucial that the sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights that are part of two goals (health and gender) in the Open Working Group outcome document must be retained and further strengthened by the inclusion of sexual rights in the post-2015 development framework.

Although the post-2015 framework will be universally applicable, the targets will be set at a national level. Therefore we demand that the national targets set for Pakistan should place a key focus on young people and women's sexual and reproductive health and rights. We have developed the following recommendations to make this possible:

(a) Federal and provincial endorsement and implementation of quality, evidence-based life skill based education (LSBE) programmes that provide accurate information on human sexuality, gender equality, human rights, relationships, and sexual and reproductive health for both in- and out-of-school youth that is relevant to each specific age group.

(b) Legislation for women's protection and empowerment in all provinces of Pakistan, including laws against child marriages, domestic violence and other harmful traditional practices.

(c) Inclusion of women and young people's sexual and reproductive health needs in the formal and informal health structures of the federal and provincial governments.

United Nations E/CN.9/2015/NGO/19

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
4 January 2015

Original: English

Commission on Population and Development
Forty-eighth session
13-17 April 2015
General debate on national experience in population matters: realizing the future we want — integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda

Statement submitted by Planned Parenthood Federation of America, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

14-67555 (E) 300115

Please recycle

Statement

Position paper on inclusion of universal access to sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in the sustainable development goals (SDGs)

Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) is pleased to submit the below statement on behalf of the National Youth Consortium on the post-2015 development agenda for the forty-eighth Session of the Commission on Population and Development on the priority theme of "Realizing the future we want: integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda".

We, the National Youth Consortium on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, comprising of passionate and motivated young people drawn from Network for Adolescents and Youth of Africa, (NAYA KENYA), Center for Study of Adolescence (CSA) and dance4life Kenya;

Recalling the principles proclaimed in the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action (ICPD PoA), which recognize sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) as core to development of any country, and recognizing the government's proclamation in the constitution that every person has a right to the highest attainable standard of health including reproductive health.

Acknowledging the efforts of the Open Working Group in drafting the 17 proposed and 169 targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), through a process co-chaired by Kenya and further acknowledging the government's efforts in providing political leadership and will in the development process including domesticating the ICPD PoA.

Invoking the letter and the progressive spirit of the ICPD PoA, the Common Africa Position Paper, Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development in Africa beyond 2014, the Maputo Protocol, the Ministerial Commitment on Comprehensive Sexuality Education, the African Youth Charter, the resolution of the forty-seventh session of the Commission on Population and Development among several others; recognizing sexual and reproductive health as being core to the development of any nation.

Aware that the current generation of young people is the largest one ever and recognizing that adolescents and youth in all countries are a major resource for development and key agents for social change, economic development and technological innovation;

Concerned that whereas young people have diverse needs, they continue to bear the brunt of reproductive health burdens with high incidences of new HIV/AIDS infections, unintended pregnancies, unsafe abortions, maternal morbidity and mortality;

Convinced that meaningful and long lasting solutions to the recurrent youth challenges cannot be solved without the meaningful participation of the young people themselves;

We propose that the SDGs include SRHR for young people as a cross-cutting theme and ensure inclusion of these vital clauses:

(1) Remove all barriers to uptake of reproductive health services by the youth, and ensure access to youth-friendly reproductive health services. The services must be in the right place, at the right time, at the right price (free where necessary) and delivered in the right style to be acceptable to young people as per the National Guidelines on Provision of Youth Friendly Services.

(2) Increase budgetary allocation to health to a minimum of 15 per cent of national budgets as per the Abuja Declaration. In line with program-based budgeting, there should also be deliberate efforts to allocate 15 per cent of the health budget to family planning and address all demand and supply oriented barriers of access to, a use of family planning as per the Maputo Plan of Action.

(3) Implement and fully fund, quality, evidence-based comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) programs that provide accurate information on human sexuality, gender equality, human rights, relationships, and sexual and reproductive health for both in- and out-of-school youth that is relevant to each specific age group. Wherever possible, make in-school CSE programs intra-curricular and examinable.

(4) Invest in data revolution, information management, research and further disaggregation of data by age, sex and other categories as the basis of empirically founded programming and planning.

(5) Embrace technological advancements to answer the double burden of old challenges and the emerging reproductive challenges facing the young people. Whereas the world has registered major leaps in reproductive technology, the government's response on issues such as assisted reproductive technology and surrogacy remains shrouded in uncertainty, not backed up by appropriate legal and policy environment and at times antagonistic.